

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06698 100854Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
-----066387 101301Z /44

R 100807Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5362
USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS BERLIN 06698

E.O.11652; N/A
TAGS; EAGR, GE
SUBJECT; PROGRESS OF 1977 HARVEST

1. SUMMARY: WHILE ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS HAVE CLEARLY IMPEDED THE HARVESTING OF GRAIN AND OILSEEDS, THERE ARE FEW INDICATIONS AS TO THE SEVERITY OF CROP DAMAGE. DAILY PRESS REPORTS CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE REPORTING OF BARLEY AND OILSEED HARVESTS, WHILE IGNORING CONDITION OF WHEAT, RYE AND EARLY POTATOES. LODGING OF BARLEY WAS REPORTED BY THE PRESS FOR THE FIRST TIME AUGUST 5. THE PRESS, HOWEVER, HAS CONSISTENTLY AVOIDED ANY TONE OF PESSIMISM IN HARVEST REPORTING, PREFERRING TO STRESS PRODUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE NEED FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE BY PRODUCTION UNITS. END SUMMARY.

2. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) REPORTED AUGUST 9 THAT A THIRD OF THE 2.5 MILLION HECTARES OF GRAIN SOWN IN THE GDR HAVE NOW BEEN HARVESTED. WINTER GRAINS ARE REPORTED TO BE ALMOST COMPLETELY HARVESTED (AUGUST 5). BARLEY HAS BEEN HARVESTED FROM 645,902 HECTARES, OR 26.2 PERCENT OF AREA SOWN (AUGUST 7), WHILE OIL SEEDS HAVE BEEN HARVESTED FROM 83,567 HECTARES,
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OR 62.3 PERCENT OF AREA SOWN (AUGUST 9).

3. EDITORIAL IN AUGUST 5 ND ON THE 1977 HARVEST GAVE FIRST PUBLISHED ACCOUNT OF CROP DAMAGE FROM RECENT RAINS. THE EDITORIAL REPORTED THAT THE BARLEY "IN NOT A FEW FIELDS" HAD BEEN BEATEN DOWN BY THE RAINS AND THAT THIS ENDANGERED GRAIN SHOULD BE THE FIRST HARVESTED. THIS

THEME WAS CONTINUED IN ND STORY AUGUST 9
BENEATH STRIKING PHOTO OF COMBINES MAKING THEIR WAY
THROUGH A LARGE AREA OF A BARLEY FIELD LAID FLAT BY
RAINS.

4. AUGUST 5 EDITORIAL ALSO SUGGESTS THAT BOTTLENECKS
MAY BE OCCURRING IN THE ALLOCATION OF HARVESTING
MACHINERY BETWEEN PRODUCING AREAS. INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTION
UNITS, AS WELL AS DISTRICT AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES,
WERE URGED TOWARD GREATER COOPERATION IN BRINGING ABOUT A
"CONCENTRATION OF TECHNOLOGY" ON THE FIELDS THAT ARE
READY FOR HARVEST. (ONE EXAMPLE OF SUCH COOPERATION IS
THE LOAN OF A HARVEST FORCE OF 60 COMBINES, EACH WITH
TWO CREWS, PLUS 42 TRUCKS, 28 MECHANICS AND 7 REPAIRWAGONS
BY THE SOUTHERN REGION OF DRESDEN TO THE REGION OF
FRANKFURT AM ODER, EAST OF BERLIN, IN THE BEGINNING OF
AUGUST. IN RETURN, CREWS AND MACHINERY FROM FRANKFURT
WILL WORK IN THE DRESDEN REGION IN THE MIDDLE OF
AUGUST.) POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PRESS COMMENTS, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN06698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770287-1054
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770878/aaaacohi.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01bebf5d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1652286
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROGRESS OF 1977 HARVEST
TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, ECRP, GC
To: USDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01bebf5d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009